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FLOOR DEBATE

April 25, 2001 LB 543

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I don't think they'd agree with you, so I hope that this debate informs them and that at some point in time they let you know that they didn't agree, because I think it's plain that I can see no rational basis for allocating resources in that fashion. It is inefficient. It does not invest the public dollars as they need to be invested in...in degrees for students. It's one of the best investments they can make. It's one of the best investments their families can make. It's one of the best investments a state can make, and we ought to make that investment in as many students as possible. We're not doing that unless you support Senator Chambers' amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Wickersham just gave you a very scholarly presentation squarely on the issue of the policy embraced in these various aid programs. I'm not behaving as a scholarly person this morning would be expected to behave if he's trying to project the image of being scholarly. I'm serving a notice as a politician to one of the most powerful political institutions in this state and the nation and the world, and that's the Catholic Church. You see, they are politicians and, like any political organization that wants to conceal the nature of its political activity, it cannot stand a lot of public exposure. So I'm going to keep mashing their noses and I want the bishops to get together, the three of them, and talk about this and say, we can't burn him at the stake, what can we do? And somebody might say, keep your nose out of the Legislature. And I'm going to keep mashing their nose every time they stick it in here and eventually they're going to realize that this is not the kind of publicity they want, and pretty soon people who are not Catholics are going to become aware of the fact that money is being expended in a way that is fueled by the force of the Catholic Church. And these people like Senator Engel, Senator Hilgert, and Senator Foley, who will talk about students getting this money and that there are other non-Catholic church schools involved in this, if you put them all together they don't approach in their totality what Creighton does by itself, and you all know it and I know it. Do they have lobbyists out there? I don't believe it, but Creighton does. Tip O'Neill is